

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2060

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, CA, UN
SUBJECT: UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT: CANADIAN VIEWS

1. THE CANADIAN DEL CIRCULATED APRIL 7 A LETTER GIVING
CANADA'S PROVISIONAL VIEWS ON THE UNSYG'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON
SSOD. THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WE ACCEPT THAT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE SSOD SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO PRODUCE SOME FORM OF FINAL DECLARATION. INDEED THE
SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE SSOD WILL LIKELY DEPEND ON WHETHER IT
WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR PARTICIPANTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A FINAL
DOCUMENT. IT IS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE,
MEETING ONLY DURING THE SSOD ITSELF, COULD PRODUCE A SATISFACTORY
TEXT. ACCORDINGLY, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE CHANCES OF THE SSOD'S
BEING FRUITFUL, CANADA BELIEVES THAT CONSULTATION AND WORK SHOULD
BEGIN ON DRAFTING OF SUCH A FINAL DOCUMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE POSSIBLE FOR THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE AT THE SECOND
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN MAY TO INITIATE WORK, TO HAVE IT CONTINUE
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AT THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER AND HAVE A PRELIM-
INARY DRAFT SUBMITTED TO UNGA 32 FOR COMMENT IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE.
THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MIGHT BE EMPOWERED TO CONTINUE CONSULT-
ATIONS AND DRAFTING BETWEEN THE UNGA AND START OF THE SSOD ITSELF.
ON THIS BASIS, THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE SSOD MIGHT HAVE A
SOUNDER BASIS FOR COMPLETING DRAFTING WITHIN, SAY TWO TO FOUR
WEEKS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION.

WHILE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE UNGA WILL DOUBTLESS
APPLY TO THE SSOD, THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE

AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL ACT AS A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT; IN OUR VIEW THIS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ADOPTION OF ANY FINAL DECLARATION BY MAJORITY ONLY WOULD CLEARLY REDUCE THE VALUE OF THE SSOD AND GREATLY DETRACT FROM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY FINAL DOCUMENT ON WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT FOUND CAUSE TO ABSTAIN. THE DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING A FINAL ACT AS A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT IS AN ADDED REASON FOR BEGINNING PRELIMINARY WORK ON IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO FOCUS ATTENTION AT AN EARLY DATE FOR THE PURSUIT OF CONSENSUS ON THE FINAL ACT AS TOP PRIORITY, WE ARE EXAMINING THE DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING IN OUR REPLY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION, A SKELETAL OUTLINE OF SOME OF THE MAIN TOPICS THAT SEEM TO BE INEVITABLE CANDIDATES FOR INCLUSION IN SUCH A DOCUMENT TOGETHER WITH VERY BRIEF NOTATIONS ON POSSIBLE CONTENTS. THE TEXT OF THIS OUTLINE HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED IN OTTAWA.

CANADA DOES NOT FAVOUR THE SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT THE SSOD SHOULD BE TREATED AS SOME KIND OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD DOWNGRADE TO SSOD, WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED IN ITS OWN RIGHT. WE ARE INCLINED TO THE VIEW THAT ONE MEANS TO TRY TO HEAD OFF THIS SOVIET GAMBIT WOULD BE TO PROPOSE THAT THE FINAL ACT MIGHT CALL FOR THE CONVENING OF A FURTHER SPECIAL SESSION TO REVIEW PROGRESS. CONFIDENTIAL

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(1983 MIGHT BE A REASONABLE DATE).

THE NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED APPEAR TO BE THINKING, INTER ALIA, IN TERMS OF ENUMERATING "PRINCIPLES", CATALOGUING SPECIFIC MEASURES AND REVISING THE "STRUCTURE" FOR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. INsofar AS CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, CANADA BELIEVES THAT THEY MIGHT BE APPENDED TO A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT AS A FORMAL PART OF IT. IF HOWEVER, AS SEEMS LIKELY, A CONSENSUS WERE NOT ATTAINABLE ON OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL, IT MIGHT BE ADOPTED BY THE SSOD IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HAVE A DIFFERENT STATUS FROM THE CONSENSUS DOCUMENT ITSELF. END TEXT. STRAUSS-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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